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A Japanese Introduction

Learn how to introduce yourself

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Also Appears In: Conversational Japanese for Absolute Beginners

Absolute Beginner Season 2

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（At a Japanese class）

A:　はじめまして。わたし は Taylor(テイラー)です。

かいしゃいん です。

よろしく おねがいします。

B:　わたし は Nicole(ニコール)です。しゅふです。

よろしく おねがいします。

C:　こんにちは。ぼく は Luis(ルイス)です。がくせいです。

ぼく は メキシコじんです。

Vocabulary

Hide

English Kana Rōmaji

わたし [わたし] 1 EXAMPLE

I, me

わたしはカウンセラーです。

I'm a counselor.

しゅふ [しゅふ] 1 EXAMPLE

homemaker

ちえみさんのおかあさんはしゅふです。

Chiemi's mother is a homemaker.

こんにちは [こんにちは] 2 EXAMPLES

hello

皆さん、こんにちは。

Hello, everybody.

こんにちは。はじめまして。

Hello. Nice to meet you.

メキシコ [メキシコ] 1 EXAMPLE

Mexico

わたしはメキシコがすきです。

I like Mexico.

はじめまして。 [はじめまして。] 1 EXAMPLE

Nice to meet you.

こんにちは。はじめまして。

Hello. Nice to meet you.

がくせい [がくせい] 1 EXAMPLE

student

わたしもがくせいです。

I'm also a student.

かいしゃいん [かいしゃいん] 1 EXAMPLE

company employee

ちえみさんのおとうさんはかいしゃいんです。

Chiemi's father is a company employee.

ぼく [ぼく] 1 EXAMPLE

I, me (mainly used by male speakers)

ぼくは、プロボクサーです。

I'm a professional boxer.

メキシコじん [メキシコじん] 1 EXAMPLE

Mexican (person)

ケントのおとうさんはメキシコじんです。

Kent's father is Mexican.

じん [じん] 1 EXAMPLE

attached to name of country to denote nationality;Suffix

わたしはスペインじんです。

I'm Spanish.

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Telling One's Occupation and Nationality.
Boku wa Mekishiko-jin desu.
ぼく は メキシコじんです。
"I'm Mexican."

When introducing yourself or having a conversation with a new person at a party, you'll probably want to mention your occupation and nationality! In this lesson, you'll learn how to say your occupation and nationality using the *A wa B desu* ("A is B") sentence structure.

Vocabulary List: Occupations

In this lesson, we saw three words for common occupations. Let's memorize them!

"ENGLISH"	*JAPANESE*
"company employee"	*kaishain*

"homemaker"	*shufu*
"student"	*gakusei*

How to Say Your Occupation

Let's take a look at the sentence pattern for describing yourself!

Sentence Pattern

- ***Watashi/Boku wa* [occupation] *desu.*** → "I'm a/an [occupation]."

* When it's obvious that you're talking about yourself, you omit the *watashi wa* or *boku wa* part.

Sample Sentences

1. ***Watashi wa** gakusei **desu**.*
   わたし は がくせい **です。**
   "I'm a student."
2. ***Boku wa** kaishain **desu**.*
   ぼくは かいしゃいん **です。**
   "I'm a company employee."

How to Say Your Nationality

Let's take a look at the sentence pattern for telling your nationality.

Sentence Pattern

- ***Watashi/Boku wa* [Country name + *jin*] *desu.*** → "I'm [nationality]."

* When it's obvious that you're talking about yourself, you can omit the *watashi wa* or *boku wa*.

Sample Sentences

1. ***Watashi** wa Furansu-jin **desu**.*
   わたし は フランスじん **です。**
   "I'm French."
2. ***Boku wa** Doitsu-jin **desu**.*
   ぼくは ドイツじん **です。**
   "I'm German."

Practice

Using this lesson's grammar, try introducing yourself in Japanese!

1. *Kon'nichi wa.*

Watashi (or *Boku*) *wa* [Name] *desu*.
[Occupation] *desu*.
[Nationality] *desu.*
Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

Translation: "Hello. I'm [Name]. I'm a/an [occupation]. I'm [nationality]. It's a pleasure to meet you."

Reference

Please also review the following grammar points.

- *Watshi* and *Boku* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 7
- *A wa B desu* ("A is B") sentence pattern → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 7

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ *Mekishiko-jin* (メキシコじん) "Mexican (person)"
To express one's nationality, you simply add the word for person, *jin*, to the name of a country.

See the examples below...

NAME OF A COUNTRY IN ENGLISH	NAME OF A COUNTRY IN JAPANESE	NATIONALITY [COUNTRY NAME] + *JIN*
"America (the United States)"	*Amerika*	*Amerika-jin*
"France"	*Furansu*	*Furansu-jin*
"Spain"	*Supein*	*Supein-jin*
"Australia"	*Ōsutoraria*	*Ōsutoraria-jin*

Be careful, though! Some country names sound different from their English pronunciation.

NAME OF A COUNTRY IN ENGLISH	NAME OF A COUNTRY IN JAPANESE	NATIONALITY [COUNTRY NAME] + *JIN*
"the United Kingdom"	*Igirisu*	*Igirisu-jin*
"Germany"	*Doitsu*	*Doitsu-jin*
"China"	*Chūgoku*	*Chūgoku-jin*

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

は　wa
Topic maker, As for
Introduced

です　desu
to be (copula)
Introduced

Lesson Transcript

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